The Way of St. James has existed for over a thousand years. It was one of the most important Christian pilgrimage routes during medieval times. Some of the others include the Via Francigena to Rome and the pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Legend holds that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela. Traditionally, as with most pilgrimages, the Way of Saint James began at one's home and ended at the pilgrimage site. However, the main trail called the “French Way” travels from France along the northern breath of Spain.

On the route itself, you will follow the marker, the scallop shell, typically found on the shores in Galicia. It has long been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago. Today tens of thousands of Christian pilgrims and other travellers set out each year from popular starting points across Europe, to make their way to Santiago de Compostela. Most travel by foot, some by bicycle, and a few travel as some of their medieval counterparts did, on horseback or by donkey. In addition to people undertaking a religious pilgrimage, there are many travellers and hikers who walk the route for non-religious reasons: travel, sport, or simply the challenge of weeks of walking in a foreign land. Also, many consider the experience a spiritual adventure to remove themselves from the bustle of modern life. It acts as a retreat for many modern "pilgrims".

The traditional way would be to travel each day and find a hostel to spend the night. Active Journeys offers this hike with pre-arranged accommodation, luggage transfers and route notes to make this journey a memorable experience without the hardship. Typically it can be walked in 4 to 6 weeks, we have it broken up into 4 manageable sections.

**Camino de Santiago**

**Tour Details**
- Dates: Daily April to end October
- Cost: Starting from $1495
- Length: From 6 to 14 nights
- Can be organized separately or as one long tour.
- Grade: Intermediate

**Includes:** All accommodation, luggage services, meals as outlined in the itinerary, route notes (one set for each room)

**Fast Facts**
- Hiking through the country without luggage
- Breakfast & dinner in lovely accommodations along the trail (except some larger towns and cities)
- Route notes and maps provided
- Local office support

Active Journeys
Contact: 1-800-597-5594 or 416-236-5011
Email: info@activejourneys.com
STAGE 1
ITINERARY: ST JEAN PIED DE PORT-LOGROÑO
This route of the Camino - the French Way - itself starts in Le Puy in France. From there you can arrive in St Jean Pied de Port in 6 sections. For more information about these sections, contact us and we will be happy to provide you with the trip notes and cost. The most famous sections of the Camino Trail start here in Southern France, close to the Spanish border, crossing the southern edge of the Pyrenees. This route will take 7 nights, and can be rather challenging for the first days. This itinerary not open during first 2 weeks in July during the San Fermin.

Day 1  Arrive St Jean Pied de Port
Day 2  Hike to Roncesvalles 25 km
There are 2 options to do the route, the Napoleon Road vs the Ancient Roman Way. The route climbs in 2 sections to Biakorri Virgin then again up to Lepoeder Pass (1430m). You cross the border into Spain to your hotel. Detailed descriptions are in the route notes.
Departure altitude 180m/ Arrival altitude: 920m   8 hr walk

Day 3  To Zubiri 22 km
Today’s route takes in the charming villages of the Pyrenees, Burguete, Espinal (871m) and Viscarret.
Dep alt: 920m / Arr Alt: 526m    6 hr walk

Day 4  To Pamplona 21 km
You follow the Valley of Arga to Zabadilca. Then crossing the pass to Pamplona, famous for it’s “Running of the Bulls”. En route to the city, you pass the uninspiring city suburbs before discovering the lovely old city lanes. Here we offer only breakfast so that you may enjoy the local flavour in the many restaurants.
Dep alt: 526 / Arr Alt: 415m     5.5 hr walk

Day 5  To Puente la Reina 24 km
The Pyrenees are behind you now, and you carry on through the Spanish Navarre. Take a bit of time to explore the picturesque village of Zariquiegui before heading out again passing the windmills at Sierra del Perdon. The highest point is Alto del Perdon at 780m.
Dep alt: 415m / Arr Alt: 346m     5.5 hr walk

Day 6  To Estella 22 km
The landscape here starts to get flatter and drier as you hike each day. Here you will see some old Roman trails medieval bridges.
Dep alt: 346 / Arr Alt: 426m     6 hr walk

Day 7  To Los Arcos 21 km
The trail takes you through cultivated farmland. You can take a small detour and and explore the Irache Monastery (where there is a strange wine fountain!)
Dep alt: 426m / Arr Alt: 447m     5 hr walk

Day 8  To Logroño 28km
At this point in the trail, you will begin to see the vineyards of the Rioja region. Carry on to the historical town of Logroño.
This overnight is optional if you do this stage only, otherwise your hotel is included if you carry on Stage 2.

Info: 7 nights - 7 days of hiking
Cost: $1695 per person  Single Room Upgrade: $295
Solo traveller: $2050
Includes: All breakfasts and 6 dinners
STAGE 2
ITINERARY: LOGROÑO– BURGOS

Leaving Logroño, the route winds its way through the rich Rioja region, famous for its fine wines and rich farmland. Explore the historical towns of Najera and Santo Domingo de la Cazada en route.

Day 1   Arrive Logroño
Arrive in Legroño, situated on the Ebro River, the capital of the Rioja region, known for its fine wines. Logroño has one of the most distinguished culinary traditions in Spain. There are over 50 taperías (tapas restaurants) located within a 4 block area, near the town centre. So there are many things to discover and enjoy!

Day 2   Logroño to Najera   29 km
This section of the route does not have any important altitude gains or losses. You can take your time to enjoy the local flavour of the second stage of the route. Discover the charming park of Pantano de la Graiera, then cross the Navarrete (the potter's city), and explore the Templar monastery en route.
Departure altitude  400m/ Arrival altitude: 485m    7 hr walk

Day 3   To Santo Domingo de la Calzada   21 km
Today's route is typical of this entire stage of the Camino Trail. You walk along a high central plateau where shade is rare. Occasionally you will find a big oak tree to take a well-deserved break.
Dep alt: 485m/ Arr Alt: 638m    5.5 hr walk

Day 4   To Belorado   26 km
As you walk the trail to Belorado, you begin to truly appreciate the meaning of walking meditation. The landscape is stark, but stunningly beautiful at the same time.
Dep alt: 638m / Arr Alt: 796m    7 hr walk

Day 5   To San Juan de Ortega   24 km
Here you start again with the same countryside but as the day ends, the scenery changes as well. You will start to hike uphill through the forest of Los Montes de Oca at 1150m before descending to San Juan de Ortega.
Dep alt: 796m / Arr Alt: 1012m    5.5 hr walk

Day 6   To Burgos   27.6 km
Here we travel to Burgos via the long route avoiding the suburbs of the city and enjoying the more picturesque trail along the Camino. We do not include dinner in Logroño, Santo Domingo and Burgos allowing you flexibility to discover the local cuisine and wine bars on your own. There are many to choose from and come in varying levels of costs.
Dep alt: 1012 / Arr Alt: 856m    6 hr walk

Day 7   End of tour
After breakfast depart on your own.

Info:   6 nights - 5 days of hiking
Cost: $1495 per person   Single Room Upgrade: $375
Solo traveller: $2195
Includes: All breakfasts and 3 dinners, internal transfers
STAGE 3
ITINERARY: BURGOS TO LEÓN
This part of the route is probably the most famous. It has numerous hamlets, villages, cathedrals, and much more to explore at your own pace.

Day 1  Arrive Burgos
Burgos is rich in ancient churches and convents. In 2010, it was inaugurated to the Museum of Human Evolution, unique in its kind all around the world, which will become one of the top 10 visited museums in Spain. It is a place that is worth spending more than one day to explore the sights and enjoy the fine cuisine.

Day 2  To Castrojeriz  38 km
This day’s route takes you on a trail of vast plains and desolate landscape. You will pass Hornillo el Camino built on its unique road before descending from the plateau to the charming hamlets of Hontanas and Castrojeriz.
Departure altitude 856m/ Arrival altitude: 800m   10 hr walk

Day 3  To Fromista  25 km
You start the day with a short climb to the plateau and follow the route to cross the Itero Bridge and its famous 11 arches. Then cross the border to the next province. You continue to Fromista, with its Romanesque Church of San Martin.
Dep alt: 800/ Arr Alt: 780m   6.5 hr walk

Day 4  To Carrion de los Condes  21 km
On this day you have two options for hiking, the official route which would be impossible to get lost. Alternatively you can take a longer route along the Rio Ucieza with a detour to the centre of Villalcazar de Sirga (a huge church in the middle of wheat fields).
Dep alt: 780 / Arr Alt: 840m   5.5 hr walk

Day 5  To Moratinos  31 km
Today's highlights would include a visit to the old monastery of San Zoilo, before crossing the paramo (a desert) dotted with several villages on route. You arrive in Moratinos where we provide a transfer to the next town for your overnight in Sahagun.
Dep alt: 840m / Arr Alt: 816m   8 hr walk

Day 6  To Burgo Ranero  28 km
You will follow the path along the paramo, where many trees line the “Camino Real”, planted specifically to provide shade for the pilgrims. Follow another old roman road to Burgo Ranero.
Dep alt: 816m / Arr Alt: 878m   7.5 hr walk

Day 7  To Mansillas de las Mulas  20 km
There is another choice of routes, then both trails meet again at the beginning of the trailhead. Continue along the main Camino to Mansillas de las Mulas.
Dep alt: 878m / Arr Alt: 799m   5.5 hr walk

Day 8  To León  18 km
This day’s route is short and pleasant. The trail ends with a lovely descent into León, one of the main cities along the French way—Camino de Santiago. In the distance you will be able to see the beautiful views of the mountains of the Cordillere de Cantabrica.
Dep alt: 799m / Arr Alt: 822m   5.5 hr walk

Info:  7 nights - 7 days of hiking
Cost:  $1695 per person  Single Room Upgrade: $350
Solo traveller:  $2495
Includes: All breakfasts and 6 dinners, internal transfers
Optional night in León: $125 per person
STAGE 4
ITINERARY:  LEÓN to SANTIAGO

Day 1  Arrive León
León sits along the banks of the river Bernesga and is the last major city in the Camino de Santiago before it climbs west into the mountains. Lots to discover in the old part of town; cathedrals, monuments, wonderful cafes and restaurants.

Day 2  Hike to Hospital de Orbigo  36 km
Take a bus to outskirts of town, and choose from 2 routes to Orbigo, one follows the national road, the other further south on the paramo. Both will meet before arriving at your next destination. Departure altitude 822m / Arrival altitude: 819m  9 hr walk

Day 3  To Astorga  18 km
This is a relatively short day over the huge plateau before arriving in Astorga, the place of the Archbishops Palace and Artorga Cathedral.
Dep alt: 819m / Arr Alt: 869m  4.5 hr walk

Day 4  To Rabanal del Camino  21km
With the plains behind you, you start the mountainous terrain on undulating rolling hills. Take some time to visit Castillo de los Polvazares, a town listed as a historical monument.
Dep alt: 869m / Arr Alt: 1149m  5.5 hr walk

Day 5  To Ponteferrada  33 km
Here you begin on the trail of one of the highest ascents on this sector before heading down past 2 wonderful villages.
Dep alt: 1149m / Arr Alt: 543m  8.5 hr walk

Day 6  To Villafranca del Bierzo  22 km
After yesterday’s climb you are rewarded with a level trail down to Villafranca, another charming town along the Camino.
Dep alt: 543m / Arr Alt: 511m  6 hr walk

Day 7  To O Cebreiro  30 km
There are several routes to choose from, the main route follows the highway, but the alternate routes are much more picturesque, albeit, more demanding as well to the magical village of O Cebreiro.
Dep alt: 511m / Arr Alt: 1300m  8.5 hr walk

Day 8  To Triacastela  21km
The trail follows the mountain ridges, and on a clear day, you will have a breathtaking view of the Gallice (highest peak at 1337m). Then hike down to the green valley of Traicastela.
Dep alt: 1300m / Arr Alt: 665m  5.5 hr walk

Day 9  To Sarria  17km
Again there are 2 routes to choose from, one passes an old abandoned monastery (not much to see), and the other is shorter crossing the countryside.
Dep alt: 665m / Arr Alt: 420m  4.5 hr walk

Day 10  To Portomarin  22km
The route to the next village is often muddy, but very scenic as it passes through several hamlets en route to Portomarin.
Dep alt: 420m / Arr Alt: 550m  5.5 hr walk

Day 11  To Palas de Rei  24km
As we cross the meadows here with stone art, we are reminded that this once was Celtic land.
Dep alt: 550m / Arr Alt: 565m  6.5 hr walk

Day 12  To Arzua  29km
Through the ever-changing landscapes (now eucalyptus forests) we meet the Camino Norte trail before Arzua.
Dep alt: 565m / Arr Alt: 389m  7.5 hr walk

Day 13  To Lavacolla  29 km
This is the last stage of the walk before arriving in Santiago.
Dep alt: 389m/ Arr Alt: 320m  7.5 hr walk

Day 14  To Santiago  10 km
The end of your journey. Dep alt: 320m / Arr Alt: 264m  2.5 hr walk

STAGE 4 Cost
Info: 14 nights - 13 days of hiking
Cost: $285 per person
Single Room Upgrade: $495
Solo traveller: $3895
Includes: All breakfasts and 12 dinners, internal transfers
What to Expect

What will the weather be like?
The daytime temperature will be warm and sunny in spring and fall. In June and July, you can expect high 80s, maybe even 90’s, and cooler evenings. Sunscreen is a must during the day, as is a sweater for the cooler nights. Rain gear is a must as well, especially in the early stages of the tour. Good comfortable waterproof boots are a must.

How many hours of hiking a day?
Be prepared to hike between 5-9 hours daily. The countryside trails hug the coastline. There are occasionally very long days, you can choose to take a local bus part of the way and pick up the trail later.

How fit do I need to be?
The fitter the better, as long distance hiking experience is certainly recommended. The trail is well-marked and well trodden. You will definitely meet others along the route. The days can be long and tiring.

What are the hotels like?
Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis in 2/3* hotels with en suite facilities. Picnic lunches are not included in the tour price but supplies for picnics are easily purchased in each of the towns and villages where you stay. Dinners can be included and are at the property where you stay the night. In cities, where there are many choices, dinners are not included so that you may discover the local flavour on your own.

How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire booking process.
- Download the reservation form from our website and send in the completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent immediately.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Terms & conditions are outlined on the back of our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or directly from a travel insurance provider.
- Ensure that you are in proper health for the trip. Contact us for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.

Extra Services

We can help you arrange extra accommodations before or after your journey. You can also extend each leg or stage of this trip by adding rest days wherever you would like. This has to be done at the time of booking.

Getting There

There are numerous flights going to Girona, via Barcelona or Madrid.

From there you can take the train or bus to the starting point. Optional private transfers can also be arranged.